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**Notes.** — Professor M. M. Metcalf's extended studies on the tunicates have been published in the *Zoölogische Jahrbücher* as a series of short articles under the general heading "Notes on the Morphology of the Tunicata."

On the basis of recent studies on the life history of certain gregarines, Léger and Dubosca (*C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris*, 5 Juin, 1900) find that the epimerite alone is intracellular, and maintain that, contrary to generally accepted views, a true intracellular stage in development is very exceptional among these forms.

A detailed description of two fish tapeworms from the Great Lakes is given by Benedict (*Journ. Morph.*, Vol. XVI, pp. 337–368, 1 pl.). One is a well-known European form, and the other an imperfectly known species originally described by Leidy. Both belong to the genus Proteocephalus Weinland (= Ichthyotænia Lönnberg), which is shown to be more complicated in structure than hitherto supposed.

In his chapter on the entozoa, in the *Fauna Hawaiiensis* (Vol. II, Pt. IV, pp. 427–441, 2 pls.), Shipley reprints with emendations the description of the peculiar form *Apororhynchus* (= *Arhynchus*) *hemignathi* which he had previously discussed. It is important as the only known Acanthocephalon with no trace of the evertible proboscis and hooks ordinarily accepted as characteristic of the group.

A number of new genera of North American Hydrachnidæ are described and figured by Wolcott (*Trans. Amer. Micr. Soc.*, Vol. XXI, pp. 177–200, 4 pls.). The only one in the list which was previously known was reported once each from Russia and Venezuela, and is exceedingly aberrant in structure.

A new cestode of peculiar structure has been found in the turkey and is described by Ransom (*Trans. Amer. Micr. Soc.*, Vol. XXI, pp. 213–226, 2 pls.). It is characterized by the migration of the eggs in masses from the uterus to a point nearer the center of the proglottid, where a prominent egg capsule is secondarily constructed to include them. The uterus then becomes reduced, until it disappears entirely, — whence the name given to the form, *Metroliasthes lucida*.

The plankton of Echo River, Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, as listed by Kofoid (*Trans. Amer. Micr. Soc.*, Vol. XXI, pp. 113–126) from collections made by Eigenmann, is characterized by absence of plant life, particularly diatoms, by absence of rotifers, by predominance of copepods, and by the presence of many littoral species. Among all the forms listed, twenty in all, few, if indeed any at all, are stygian, while most are common epigean forms. The author thinks that free access of surface water provides for the renewal of the plankton and prevents the development of peculiar cave forms.

The annelids of the Nordenskjöld expedition to Patagonia have been studied by Ehlers (*Nachr. Ges. Wiss.*, Göttingen, 1900, Heft 2). The collection embraced eighty-four species, of which twenty-one were new, and supplements well that made by Michaelsen in the same region. Three species and two varieties are noted as characteristically "bipolar" in distribution so far as known at present.

Jägerskiöld has given (*Centralb. Bakt.*, 1 Abt., Vol. XXIV, p. 737) a valuable discussion of the curious rosette organs of the lateral line in ascarids. Though exceedingly variable in different species, they are undoubtedly homologous; their function must still be left uncertain, though size and development show them to be active and important.

Van Denburgh and Wight (*Amer. Journ. of Phys.*, Vol. IV, p. 209) have studied the more important effects of the poison of the Gila Monster (*Heloderma suspectum*). A subcutaneous injection of six or seven drops into the groin of a dog was followed by death in less than twenty-four hours. Observations on numerous cases showed that the poison acted directly upon the respiratory center, causing a quickening and then a gradual paralysis of the respiratory mechanism. When artificial respiration was resorted to, death nevertheless supervened as a result of cardiac failure, showing that the heart is profoundly affected as well as the respiratory apparatus. The authors conclude that the effects of the Gila Monster poison are in no important respect different from those of the venom of various poisonous snakes.

H. M. Vernon (*Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, 1898) brings additional evidence to that furnished by Seeliger and by Morgan to show that Boveri's (*American Naturalist*, March, 1893 and 1895) famous attempt to establish by experiment the dependence of adult characters upon chromosomes did not rest upon a firm basis. He finds that in the echinoderms bastards resemble now one parent, now the other, according to the time of year in which the crossing was carried on. He concludes that the "characteristics of the hybrid offspring depend directly upon the relative degrees of maturity of the sexual products."

The Oregon State Biologist, Professor F. L. Washburn, has just published a brief illustrated account of the food fishes of the Oregon coast. The pamphlet includes brief descriptions of some dozen food fishes, accompanied by photographic and other illustrations, and marks a beginning in the systematic study of the food fishes of the state.

## BOTANY.

**Mrs. Dana's Wild Flowers.**[1] — Mrs. Dana's now well-known book owes its inspiration to an idea of Mr. Burroughs', that some day a book would appear by which our wild flowers should be made known without the trouble of analyzing them; and his suggestion of color and season as the leading means of attaining this seemingly desirable end has been faithfully worked out in it. Seven years have elapsed since the first edition appeared, and the fact that the edition now under review marks the issuance of the fifty-sixth thousand shows that it has met with measurable favor. Opinions have differed as to its real value. People who love but do not know flowers, and who want to learn their names without trouble, have always liked it. People who believe that one might as well learn botany while learning the names of the commoner and more showy plants have not infrequently regretted its publication. While the present reviewer would not start a student of botany with it, he believes it to be a very good book of its kind and for persons who will not go at the study in more than a holiday spirit, and it is a delight to thumb its pages. It may be that the numerous colored plates which form the novel feature of the new edition add to the value of the book, and they certainly are well done for three-color work, and will add to its salability.

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**Our Native Trees.**[2] — Miss Keeler has made a very commendable addition to the semi-popular treatises on American plants, in a

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[1] Dana, Mrs. W. S. *How to Know the Wild Flowers.* A Guide to the Names, Haunts, and Habits of our Common Wild Flowers. Illustrated by Marian Satterlee and Elsie Louise Shaw. New edition, with colored plates. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900. 8vo, xxxix + 346 pp.

[2] Keeler, Harriet L. *On Native Trees and How to Identify Them.* A Popular Study of their Habits and their Peculiarities. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900. 8vo, xxiii + 533 pp., with 178 illustrations from photographs and 162 illustrations from drawings.